

CLAIMS

1. An Internet portal system for accomplishing a multi-component task involving interaction with one or more Internet Web sites, comprising:
 - an Internet-connected server having access to client-related data;
 - an internet-capable client station usable by a client; and
 - software executing on the server for managing individual component tasks in execution of the multi-component task;
 - wherein the software, in response to initiation of a multi-component task specified by the client, transparently to the client, and without interaction from the client defines the component tasks based on pre-programmed client-related data, identifies data sources needed for completion of the tasks, performs and manages interaction with the identified Web sites, gathering results of the interactions, integrates the gathered results, and communicates final results to the client at the client station.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the software provides an input interface for the client to define a task.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the input interface enables the client to participate in defining component tasks and in selecting the Web sites for completion of component tasks.
4. A method for accomplishing, after initiation by a client and completely transparent to a client and without interaction from the client following the initiation, a multi-component task involving interaction with one or more Internet Web sites, comprising steps of:
 - (a) defining component tasks based on pre-programmed client-related data by software executing on the Internet-connected subscription server;
 - (b) identifying data sources for completion of the component tasks;
 - (c) managing execution of the component tasks by the software, including interaction with the Web servers identified, and
 - (d) gathering and integrating results of the component tasks and communicating final results to the client at the client station.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the software provides an input interface for the client to define a task.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the input interface enables the client to participate in defining component tasks and in selecting the Web sites for completion of component tasks.